

Washington - The U.S. House of Representatives voted today to pass a resolution by Rep. Linda Sánchez that would provide a long overdue recognition to thousands of Vietnam War veterans for their dedicated service to our country.

The passage of Rep. Sánchez' "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" resolution (H. Res. 189) comes a week after she hosted a community veterans forum with local veterans to discuss their access to health and other services.

"Our government has an obligation to serve those who have served our country," said Rep. Sánchez. "That responsibility starts with me, which is why I have been working on veterans issues since coming to Congress."

Rep. Sánchez began her work on the "Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Day" resolution in 2003 following a discussion with Jose Ramos, a Vietnam veteran from Whittier. Passage of the resolution by the 110th Congress, which enjoyed broad bipartisan support, comes after Rep. Sánchez introduced it in the 108th and 109th Congresses.

"I introduced this resolution to establish a 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,' because giving our veterans the heroes' welcome they deserve is long overdue," added Rep. Sánchez.

Earlier this month, Rep. Sánchez hosted a community forum on veterans' issues in Artesia, with representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Long Beach VA Hospital, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Approximately 35 local veterans and family members attended the forum to participate in an open dialogue on healthcare, services, and benefits. The forum also shed light on specific obstacles in the VA process that veterans face while applying for and receiving these services and benefits.

"Today's vote by the House of Representatives to pass the 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day' resolution is an important and long overdue tribute to the men and women who served our great nation in uniform in Vietnam," said Rep. Sánchez. "Every time I talk with veterans in our community, though, I remember that we have much more work to do."